



**Seneca County EMA Situation Report #15**  
**COVID-19 Response**  
**April 1, 2020**  
**County EOC Status: Monitoring**  
**State EOC: Activated**

Distribution List: Villages, Townships, Seneca County Elected Officials, City of Tiffin Elected Officials, City of Fostoria Elected Officials, Fire Chiefs, Law Enforcement, LEPC/HS and Mental Health Recovery Services

**Ohio**

**Confirmed Cases:** 2547 (+348 in last 24 hours)  
**Deaths** 65

**Seneca County**

**Confirmed Cases:** 4  
**Deaths:** 1  
**Recovered:** 1

**Resources:**

**Ohio ODH:** [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

**CDC:** [CDC.gov](https://CDC.gov)

**Seneca County General Health District:** [senecahealthdistrict.org](https://senecahealthdistrict.org)

**Executive Summary**

Governor DeWine: The Ohio Department of Health has 8 regions, Wood County is in Region 1. Surge capacity needs to be identified. This is accomplished by identifying normal capacity, surge capacity and expected number of patients based on modeling. The goal is to identify patients get them the appropriate level of care that they need. The state has been divided into three larger regions. Our region is the entire northern part of Ohio. The Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Combat COVID-19 was formed for additional PPE, needed equipment and supplies. The website [www.repurposingproject.com](https://www.repurposingproject.com) has a complete list of needed items to be manufactured in Ohio. ODH will continue to provide testing for hospitalized patients and first responders, additional hospitals are expected to become available next week to assist with testing. A new rapid test will be used as soon as they arrive in Ohio, delivery is anticipated in the next week. Those who receive SNAP benefits will be able to swipe their cards outside to allow click-it groceries for curbside delivery to reduce community spread. Today is National Census Day, please complete your census to ensure Ohio is accurately represented. This can be accomplished through the website [www.2020census.gov](https://www.2020census.gov), phone: 844-330-2020 or by mail. Major Presidential Declaration was declared March 31, 2020, which shifts some funding of COVID-19 from the state to the

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federal government. The state will be approving an order to assist small businesses. This is a pause to lenders and landlords to suspend payments for 90 days.

John Husted: Small Business Order is to stop the economic spread of the COVID-19 virus. The federal government stopped the foreclosure on residential properties and evictions through July 2020. This helps the owner of buildings, who are not getting rent from businesses on hold due to the Stay at Home Order. This 90-day pause will keep the cash flowing to the employees and help to re-start the economy. The Manufacturer Alliance allows Ohio's manufactures to step-up, helping Ohio get the needed supplies locally and not have to compete for them nationally. The retailer and grocery stores are asking the customers: keep 6' distance, shop alone, stay at home when you don't feel well, minimize trips, wash/sanitize hands before and after shopping, wear masks and gloves, shop online for home delivery or pick-up.

Dr. Amy Acton: Self-awareness is important now to be kind to each other during this trying time. Please remember the people we are talking in person or on the other end of the phone have issues and stress as well. Please be considerate and understanding of others as our moods are contagious to others. Signed an order to all hospitals not doing their own COVID-19 testing, hospitals/labs must provide a quick turnaround. May eliminate the ability to use some private labs. Rapid testing will be used as soon as they are sent to Ohio, anticipate delivery in the next week. Working three shifts to get the tests turned around quicker to local health departments.

Governor DeWine reports that there is now an email set up to coordinate donations and offers to help. This address is [together@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:together@governor.ohio.gov).

Dr. Acton reports there is a new coronavirus interactive dashboard at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/dashboard>.

#### **Seneca County General Health District:**

Seneca County Health Commissioner will produce Facebook Live videos with updates from the Health District. These will occur at 10:30 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Videos will be archived on Facebook and can be viewed live on the Health Department's and Commissioner's FB pages.

#### **Emergency Management Agency**

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) is receiving reports of spam calls to Ohioans from individuals claiming to be from the Ohio EMA and requesting personal protected information, such as a Social Security number. "The Ohio Emergency Management Agency is not calling Ohioans and asking for their protected personal information," said Executive Director Sima Merick. "If you receive such a call, it is a scam. Please hang up the phone." Please see the attachment for the entire release.

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EMA is continuing to accept and process Personal Protective Equipment from non-emergency sources to help support the supply for the Health Department. Contact the EMA at 419.934.1967 to arrange a drop-off. The Donation Center at the Public Safety building will be accepting donations from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-F. These resources will be prioritized and dispensed on the directive of the Seneca County General Health District.

## **Blood Collection**

On March 24, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a new initiative to collect plasma, referred to as convalescent plasma, from those who have recovered from this new coronavirus (COVID-19) to treat patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections. Convalescent plasma has antibodies specific to COVID-19 making it ideal for these patients. I am proud to share that the American Red Cross will be playing a critical role in helping to execute this new development in the fight against COVID-19.

The American Red Cross now faces a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations in response to the coronavirus outbreak. **Blood donation is considered an essential service** to ensure the health of the community and is listed as an exception in the state order. While everyone is being asked to avoid mass gatherings, it's very important to note that blood drives are **not** considered "mass gatherings."

## **Mental Health and Recovery Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties**

During these uncertain times, our office may be closed to the public, however, we are still hard at work to ensure that community member's needs are met. Our board staff is ready to help you navigate the resources. Call our office at 419.448.0640 for any questions regarding behavioral health.

## **County Commissioners**

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners will hold their regularly scheduled meeting via teleconference on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. The public is welcome to attend via Zoom teleconference either by computer through the Zoom website at <https://zoom.us/j/518443291> or on the smartphone app using the meeting ID 518443291. You can also call in and listen to the meeting using audio only by calling 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID 518443291. **The commissioners ask that you mute your phone or computer microphone upon entering the teleconference.**

## **City of Tiffin**

Mayor's Messages: Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis, I have determined it necessary to waive late fees for sewer bills for all residences and businesses for March, April, May and June in 2020. This authority is granted to me under the emergency powers of the Mayor in Chapter 131 of the Tiffin City Charter.

Declarations and orders by the Mayor and City Council can be found at [tiffinohio.gov](http://tiffinohio.gov).

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### **Courts**

The Common Pleas Courts have postponed all jury trials for the time being, and are asking those with trial and hearing dates to call ahead of time to confirm that they need to appear in person. When appearing, only bring those persons that are necessary to the case. Family members and others will not be admitted to the courthouse.

### **Clerk of Courts**

The Title office is temporarily closed to the public until further notice.

### **Seneca County Veterans Services**

The Veterans Services department has stopped all in-person meetings with clients. Services will continue using phone and email. Contact the Seneca County Veterans' Services Office for more information.

### **Job and Family Services**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services urges individuals to file their claims online, if possible, at [unemployment.ohio.gov](http://unemployment.ohio.gov).

Employers with a critical need for employees are looking for workers. Go to [Ohiomeansjobs.gov](http://Ohiomeansjobs.gov) to search and apply.

### **Healthcare**

Nursing homes have ended visitation at this time to limit the exposure of the residents.

Testing for the coronavirus is not necessary for everyone who may have the symptoms. Testing is not necessary for asymptomatic individuals. Testing will be reserved for Health Care workers and vulnerable populations only. Please call your doctor or health care provider if you think you have symptoms or call ahead to the hospital before you travel to the ER. If you are in distress, call 911 and tell the dispatcher your symptoms.

### **EMS**

Dispatchers in Seneca County have been doing a great job at screening calls for symptoms of the COVID19 and passing that information on to first responders to protect our front-line emergency medical workers.

EMS services in the county continue as usual, however, it is requested that you call your health care provider before calling 911 regarding symptoms of COVID-19. If you are in respiratory distress, call 911.

### **Law Enforcement**

The Seneca County Sheriff has ended prisoner visitation for the foreseeable future to limit exposure to the inmates and staff of the jail and Sheriff's department personnel.

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Tiffin City Police officers are taking reports by phone as much as is prudent, but still responding to emergency calls. Officers will remain on patrol throughout the city.

Fostoria Police Officers are also taking reports and patrolling; responding to emergencies as needed.

Tiffin PD and Fostoria PD have met and agreed to share resources (officers and dispatchers) if the need arises to continue to provide a safe level of service.

### **Business**

Lt. Gov. Husted advised that seasonal workers are needed by companies such as Kroger, Wal-Mart, Amazon, and others during this incident. You can get more information at [Ohiomeansjobs.com](http://Ohiomeansjobs.com). Other information for businesses can be found at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

Lt. Gov. Husted said that businesses can defer BWC payments for March, April and May. BWC and the state government will revisit that timeline in May. This decision will leave \$200 million in the local economies. Department of Transportation will issue waivers for weight and size restrictions on critical supply shipments and will waive the fee for oversized loads of critical supplies. SBA loans are available for impacted businesses at [disasterloan.sba.gov](http://disasterloan.sba.gov). Health Insurance payments from businesses can be waived for 60 calendar days as well.

TSEP and the City of Tiffin have put together webpages to direct the public to restaurants with carryout and delivery options.

### **Higher Education**

Tiffin University has suspended classroom learning and moved to an online environment.

Heidelberg University campus will close at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will resume Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> remotely through the end of the spring semester. Heidelberg will lock all exterior doors of buildings Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> with staff reporting to campus for work. No in-person business will be conducted. Some employees will be approved to work remotely.

### **Public/Private Schools**

Seneca County Opportunity Center: We are currently closed to the general public but are available by phone (419) 447-7521. We have distributed the resources that we have maintained and looking for ways to support other agencies who support individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

As per the Governor's order, schools are closed through May 1st for the time being. Some schools are providing breakfast and lunch, delivered to sectors around the area for students and teachers are reaching out to students to assist them in learning while at home.

### **Administration**

Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, reminds the public that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments will continue to be paid on time during the COVID-

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19 pandemic. The agency also reminds everyone to be aware of scammers who try to take advantage of the pandemic to trick people into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash, to maintain Social Security benefit payments or receive economic impact payments from the Department of the Treasury.

“Social Security will pay monthly benefits on time and these payments will not be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Commissioner Saul said. “I want our beneficiaries to be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping or somehow changing your Social Security payments, but that is not true. Don’t be fooled.”

**This daily situational report will be sent around 4 p.m. each day M-F and as needed over the weekend. If you wish to update or add information to this report, please get it to the EMA at [jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov](mailto:jspahr@senecacountyohio.gov) by 2:30 p.m. each day.**

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